(a) whether Government are aware of the Editorial of the Hindustan Times, New Delhi of 2nd July, 1993 titled "From Draupadi to Usha Dhiman";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what action Government propose to take through any legislation or otherwise to prevent stripping of women at public places in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government condemns and abhors such alleged acts.

(c) Provisions already exist in the I. P. C. to deal with such cases. The responsibility for registration, investigation and action under these laws in that of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. The Central Government has however issue instructions to State Governments/U.T. Administrations to strictly implement these Acts. The National Commission for Women has also taken up this matter under Section 10(1) (f) of the National Commission for Women Act (1990).

Popularisation of Hindi

2354. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been draw to a news item published in the Hindi edition of Nav Bharat Times, New Delhi dated 16th July, 1993 captioned "Out of 88 crores population only 2 lakh speak English" in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and Union Territory-wise in the country at present available with Government; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far to popularise Hindi and what are their future plans in this direction and if not, the reasons therefor indicating budgetary provisions for 1993-94?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item through this Question. Statistics available with Registrar General of Census reveal that in the 1981 Census 2,02,440 persons had returned English as their mother tongue.

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

Steps for popularisation of Hindi

Government is implementing the following 7 schemes including schemes to maintain autonomous bodies/subordinate offices under the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the purpose of Promotion of Hindi. These Schemes are likely to continue during the 8th Five Year Plan:

1. Financial assistance to voluntary organisations including publications for promotion of Hindi.—A budget provision of Rs. 282.50 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.
2. Appointment and training of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/UTs—A budget provision of Rs. 250.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.
3. Propagation of Hindi abroad—A budget provision of Rs. 36.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.
4. Scheme of production of University level text books in Hindi and in regional languages—A budget provision of Rs. 14.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.
5. Central Hindi Directorate is engaged in the development of Hindi as link language through correspondence courses, production of bilingual and tri-lingual dictionaries etc.—A budget provision of Rs. 203.50 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.
6. Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology is engaged in the evolution of scientific and technical terminology in Hindi and in Regional language—A budget provision of Rs. 77.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.
7. Kendriya Hindi Sansthan is engaged in imparting teachers' training for in-service teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/UTs—A budget provision of Rs. 235.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.

Female Literacy Rate in States

2355. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the